

TE October 26, 1983

Since 1957, the Civil Rights Commission has well served the Nation as a "watchdog" on civil rights. The Commission, through reports, statements, and the efforts of individual Commissioners, has educated Americans on the realities of discrimination in our Nation, and the steps we must take to insure equal opportunity regardless of race, color, creed, religion, sex, or national origin. Thanks to the Commission, ours is a more equal and just Nation since 1957.

All Presidents have come under the Commission's fire. That is the way it should be. Without the ability to continually prod members of all administrations—regardless of their political persuasion—into a deeper commitment in support of civil rights—the Commission would lose much of its force and legitimacy. But President Reagan is the first President to have fired sitting Commissioners, precisely because their views are different from his own. That is not the way the Commission is supposed to work, and that's not the way civil rights will be protected in this Nation.

Today's firings point out the real issues in this debate: not busing, not quotas, but the ability of the U.S. Civil Rights Commission to be a strong force for effective civil rights enforcement and education.

It is bad enough that the President fired three Commissioners, but it is inexcusable to do so at a time when Members of Congress of both parties are delicately attempting to work out a bipartisan solution to the impasse. Today's action will exacerbate the difficulties in achieving a compromise which will keep the Commission in existence beyond the winding down period.

I would hope that an administration concerned about its record in enforcing the civil rights of all Americans would not want on its conscience the death of the U.S. Civil Rights Commission. But that is exactly what will happen unless the administration can stop its wrangling for political advantage and seek the high road on the path to a strong Commission.

Mr. President, last week President Reagan announced his support for the Martin Luther King national holiday. Now is the time for him to show that he learned something from that exercise and join those of us across the Nation working to make a Civil Rights Commission strong enough and independent enough to do its job. ●

U.S. YOUTH COUNCIL AND INTERNATIONAL YOUTH YEAR COMMISSION

● Mr. MOYNIHAN. Mr. President, I rise today to bring to the attention of this body the fine contributions of the U.S. Youth Council (USYC). A broad range of young Americans participate in this fine organization, including representatives from both political

parties, trade unions, major civil rights groups, and religious organizations. The USYC is one of the most diverse organizations of its kind.

The USYC provides future American leaders with the opportunity to meet with one another, while learning about the importance of international affairs, and to extend the hand of friendship to their foreign counterparts. The council has successfully promoted international exchange and educational programs, broadening the knowledge and experiences of many of our Nation's young persons.

Mr. President, this worthy organization established the International Youth Year Commission (IYY) in December 1981. This commission applied for and received recognition from the State Department as America's foremost nongovernmental group to coordinate our Nation's observation of the U.N. International Youth Year. Since the State Department's recognition, the membership of the IYY Commission has expanded from 18 to 57 organizations. The commission has made significant progress in the last 15 months to coordinate and promote the International Youth Year.

These two organizations have performed a noble service by enhancing youth awareness and international harmony. The council and the commission deserve the utmost respect, support, and commendation from this body.

I urge my colleagues to review the membership of the International Youth Year Commission, and I ask that a list of the member groups be printed in the RECORD.

The list follows:

INTERNATIONAL YOUTH YEAR COMMISSION MEMBER ORGANIZATIONS

- A. Philip Randolph Institute:
- A Presidential Classroom for Young Americans.
- Abdala Cuban Youth Movement.
- Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc.
- Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc.
- American Council of Young Political Leaders.
- American-Israel Public Affairs Committee.
- American Student Association.
- Arrow, Inc., National American Indian Youth Committee.
- Big Brothers/Big Sisters of America.
- B'nai B'rith Youth Organizations.
- Center for Russian Jewry With Student Struggle for Soviet Jewry.
- Charles Edison Memorial Youth Fund.
- College Democrats of America.
- College Republican National Committee.
- Covenant House.
- Distributive Education Clubs of America.
- Freedom Leadership Foundation.
- Frontlash, Inc.
- Future Farmers of America.
- Institute on Religion and Democracy.
- Intercollegiate Studies Institute.
- International Association of Students in Economic and Business Management.
- International Center for Integrative Studies.
- Leadership Institute.
- Legacy: International Youth Program of the Institute for Practical Idealism.
- Lincoln Institute for Research and Education.

GRESSIONAL RECORD — SENATE

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NAACP, National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, Youth and College Division.
 National Association of Secondary School Principals/Student Councils.
 National Congress of American Indians.
 National Forensic League.
 National 4-H Council.
 National Urban League.
 National Youth Day.
 New American Patriots.
 North American Jewish Students Network.
 North American Jewish Youth Council.
 People-to-People Committee for the Handicapped.
 People-to-People International.
 Recruitment and Training Program.
 Sister Cities International Youth Committee.
 Student National Education Association.
 Teen-Age Republicans.
 United Negro College Fund.
 United States Jaycees.
 Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States—Youth Division.
 Vocational Industrial Clubs of America.
 Volunteer: The National Center for Citizen Involvement.
 World Affairs Council of Philadelphia.
 Young Americans for Freedom.
 Young America's Foundation.
 Young Democrats of America.
 Young Republican National Federation.
 Young Social Democrats.
 Youth for Energy Independence.
 Youth Institute for Peace in the Middle East.
 Youth Policy Institute.

THE 125TH BIRTHDAY OF THEODORE ROOSEVELT

Mr. D'AMATO. Mr. President, on the occasion of the 125th birthday of Theodore Roosevelt, I take great pride in bringing to your attention just a few of the outstanding contributions of this native New Yorker—the 26th President of the United States.

Born on October 27, 1858, into a situation which could have offered a life of leisure and ease, Theodore Roosevelt entered politics and devoted his life to public service. As commander of the Rough Riders, Theodore Roosevelt, or as he was more affectionately known T. R. became a national hero during the Spanish-American War. He then went on to become Governor of New York, Vice President, and our youngest President, when he succeeded to this office when President McKinley was assassinated in September 1901.

T. R. significantly changed this Nation's domestic and foreign policies. He believed that Government should act fairly both to business and labor. He thus proposed the addition of a Secretary of Commerce and Labor to the Cabinet. This was accomplished in 1903. He reacted positively to the problems highlighted by muckrakers such as Upton Sinclair. It was during this administration that the Meat Inspection Act and the Federal Food and Drug Act were passed. Protection of our Nation's forests was also a high priority. The U.S. Forest Service was established in 1905 and more than 125 million acres were added to the national forest.

Theodore Roosevelt envisioned the United States as a world leader. He believed that such a leadership role had to be supported by a strong armament, the so-called big stick. Between 1902 and 1905, Mr. Roosevelt persuaded Congress to authorize the building of 10 battleships and 4 armored cruisers. He believed that a canal across Central America was necessary for the fleet to shift rapidly between the Atlantic and Pacific oceans and thus turned this belief into reality by negotiating the building of the Panama Canal.

Mr. Roosevelt was the first American to receive the Nobel Prize for peace. He won the prize for his effort to end the Russo-Japanese War. I brought representatives from Japan to Portsmouth, N.H., and served as the mediator in these talks, which eventually led to the Treaty of Portsmouth. Mr. President, in light of Theodore Roosevelt's accomplishments, I am especially honored to pay tribute to our 26th President on this occasion of his 125th birthday.

TAKING ON THE DOCTORS

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. President, I would like to insert in the Record a recent editorial from the Washington Post entitled "Taking on the Doctors." The editorial describes and applauds the Ways and Means Committee amendment to the reconciliation bill that would freeze for 6 months the minimum medicare charges allowed for physicians services to hospital inpatients and mandate assignment of these charges.

Under current law, a physician providing services to medicare patients has two choices: He can accept medicare's recognized reasonable charge or he can ignore them. In the former case—which is called accepting assignment—the beneficiary is liable for the normal 20 percent copayment. In the latter case, the beneficiary is liable for the 20 percent copayment plus whatever additional charges the physician chooses to impose.

Mr. President, these excess charges cost beneficiaries an estimated \$2.1 billion annually. These excess charges are amounts our elderly and disabled beneficiaries can ill afford. Medicare already covers only about 42 percent of the elderly's medical costs; medicare beneficiaries already spend a shocking 20 percent of income for health care. Any freeze on medicare recognized physician fees that does not also mandate assignment would result in increased costs to beneficiaries and worsen an already grave situation.

Mr. President, Senator METZENBERG and I are sponsors of a bill, S. 16, that would require assignment of medicare charges. The 1984 budget resolution mandates that medicare savings be achieved without imposing any additional costs on medicare beneficiaries. I would like to take the